

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00768 011409Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02

L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8815

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0768

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, PFOR, NU, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH-NICARAGUAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 14738 (B) MANAGUA 291 (C) MADRID 372

1. EMBOFFS MET JANUARY 26 WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR QU GENERAL FOR IBEROMAERICA (BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO) TO CONVEY THE GUIDANCE SUGGESTED BY AMEMBASSY MANAGUA AND APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT IN REFTELS. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO SAID HE THOUGHT THE ORIGINAL REPORT HAD BEEN RATHER STRANGE AND HE HAD, IN FACT, BEEN CONFIDENT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD GIVEN THE NICARAGUANS NO SUCH MEMO. HE PROMISED TO INFORM FONMIN OREJA WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THE MIDDLE EAST VISIT.

2. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO VOLUNTEERED THAT HE KNEW LITTLE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE LOAN TO NICARAGUA WHICH WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE MINISTRY'S ECONOMIC CONTINGENT. IT SEEMED QUITE NATURAL TO HIM THAT WE WOULD, AS OTHER COUNTRIES DO, PROMOTE OUR EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY IF THERE WERE A PRICE ADVANTAGE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR OBSERVATION THAT THERE WERE RUMORS, NOT ABOUT THE SPANISH, BUT ABOUT THE NICARAGUANS, HE OBSERVED WRYLY THAT FROM WHAT HE HAD HEARD RAKE-OFFS SEEMED TO BE PART
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PAGE 02 MADRID 00768 011409Z

OF THE PRICE FOR ANYONE DOING BUSINESS IN NICARAGUA.

3. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO HAS JUST MOVED UP TO THE DIRECTIR GENERALSHIP FROM THE DEPUTY POSITION. WE TALKED ABOUT THE UTILITY OF GREATER EXCHANGED ON LATIN AMERICA GIVEN SPAIN'S GROWING INTEREST IN THE REGION. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD IF WE COULD ARRANGE FOR OCCASIONAL TOUR

D'HORIZONS ON THE LATIN AMERICAN SITUATION. WE AGREED
THAT AN EXCHANGE OF IMPRESSIONS FROM OUR DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVES COULD BE USEFUL TO BOTH SPAIN AND THE
UNITED STATES. WE WONDER IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR
THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE US, FROM TIME TO TIME, WITH AN
APPRECIATION OF SALIENT HEMISPHERIC ISSUES THAT WE COULD
USE AS THE BASIS FOR AN EXCHANGE WITH THE SPANISH
FOREIGN MINISTRY. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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